

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 15 and 28 have been amended. Claims 4, 11-14 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 7-10 and 24-26 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 7-10, 15-20, and 22-28 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(B)

Claims 1, 3, 12-18, 20 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,274,209).

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,016).

Claims 1-3, 12-20 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Edamura (U.S. Patent No. 4,841,125).

Regarding claims 1, 3, 5 and 6, the allowable subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Claims 3, 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1. These claims are now believed to be allowable. Claims 12-14 have been cancelled.

Regarding claims 15-20 and 28, the allowable subject matter of claim 21 has been incorporated into independent claims 15 and 28. Claims 16-20 are dependent on claim 15. These claims are now believed to be allowable.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(A)

Claims 5, 6, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Edamura '209 or Hirata or Edamura '125 in view of Demaline (U.S. Patent No. 5,968,393).

Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Claims 22 and 23 are dependent on claim 15 and are therefore believed to allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 11 and 27 have been allowed and claims 4 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 11 has been cancelled. Regarding claims 4 and 21, these claims have been cancelled and their subject matter incorporated into the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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